

REMARKS

This is a response to a non-final Office Action transmitted electronically on February 22, 2008. Claims 1-23 are pending. As last examined, claims 5-13 and 18-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sidman (US Patent No. 5,317,441). Claims 3, 4, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sidman (US Patent No. 5,317,441) in view of Nomura (US Patent No. 6,731,881).

Response to Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-13 and 18-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 5

Applicant has amended claim 5 to form an independent claim that includes the limitations of claims 1-4. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of amended, independent claim 5.

Claims 6-13

Previously presented claims 6-13 depend from claim 5. Applicant submits that claims 6-13 depend from a claim in allowable form and respectfully requests allowance of claims 6-13.

Claim 18

Previously presented claim 18 depends from claim 15, which depends from amended claim 14. Applicant submits that claim 18 depends from a claim in allowable form and therefore respectfully requests allowance of claim 18.

Claims 19-21

Previously presented claims 19-21 depend from claim 18. Applicant submits that claims 19-21 depend from a claim in allowable form and therefore respectfully requests allowance of claims 19-21.

Response to rejection of claims 1, 2, 22, and 23

Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,317,441 by Sidman.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the basis for this rejection, but has canceled claims 1, 2, 22 and 23 in order to expedite prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute canceled claims in a future continuation application.

Response to rejection of claims 3, 4, and 14-17

Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4, and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sidman (US Patent No. 5,317,441) in view of Nomura (US Patent No. 6,731,881).

Claims 3-4

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the basis for this rejection, but has canceled claims 3-4 in order to expedite prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute canceled claims in a future continuation application.

Claim 14

Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 5. Claim 5 has been amended per Examiner's suggestion to place it in allowable form. Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 14 depends from an independent claim in allowable form and therefore requests allowance of amended claim 14.

Claims 15-17

Previously presented claims 15-17 depend from claim 14, which has been amended to place it in allowable form. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-17 depend from a claim in allowable form and therefore requests allowance of claims 15-17.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons above, Applicants submit that the claims all define novel subject matter that is nonobvious. Therefore, allowance of these claims is submitted to be proper and is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative as listed below for a telephonic interview if doing so would expedite prosecution of the application.

Very respectfully submitted,



Phillip M. Wagner
GSS Law Group
3900 Newpark Mall Rd
Third Floor, Suite 317
Newark, CA 94560

Reg. No. 57,575
Phone (510) 742-7417
Fax (510) 742-7419